

We claim:

1. A preparation of red blood cells that has a P_{50} of greater than 30 mm Hg and the right shift is substantially stable.
2. The preparation of red blood cells of Claim 1, wherein the P_{50} is greater than 35 mm Hg.
3. The preparation of red blood cells of Claim 1, wherein the P_{50} is greater than 40 mm Hg.
4. The preparation of red blood cells of Claim 1, wherein the P_{50} is greater than 45 mm Hg.
5. The preparation of red blood cells of Claim 1, wherein the P_{50} is greater than 50 mm Hg.
6. The preparation of red blood cells of Claim 1, wherein the P_{50} is substantially stable over a period of 3 days.
7. The preparation of red blood cells of Claim 1, wherein the P_{50} is substantially stable over a period of 7 days.
8. The preparation of red blood cells of Claim 1, wherein the P_{50} is substantially stable over a period of 21 days.
9. The preparation of red blood cells of Claim 1, wherein the volume of red blood cells is a unit.
10. A preparation of cells that contain a therapeutic agent.
11. The cells of Claim 10, wherein the cells are platelets, red blood cells and white blood cells.

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